

# *Horticulture Northwest*

Journal of the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society



*Cassinia fulvida*  
Natural size

Volume 10

Number 3

Fall 1983

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# Horticulture Northwest

Volume 10    Number 3  
Fall    1983

*Sallie D. Allen, Editor*

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# Urban Horticulture Building is Begun

41

Dr. Harold B. Tukey, Jr., Director,  
Center for Urban Horticulture

The Ground Breaking Ceremony on August 18 at Union Bay Place for the Center for Urban Horticulture was a grand occasion, signifying an achievement by a great number of people and organizations. NOHS can be proud of its leadership role.

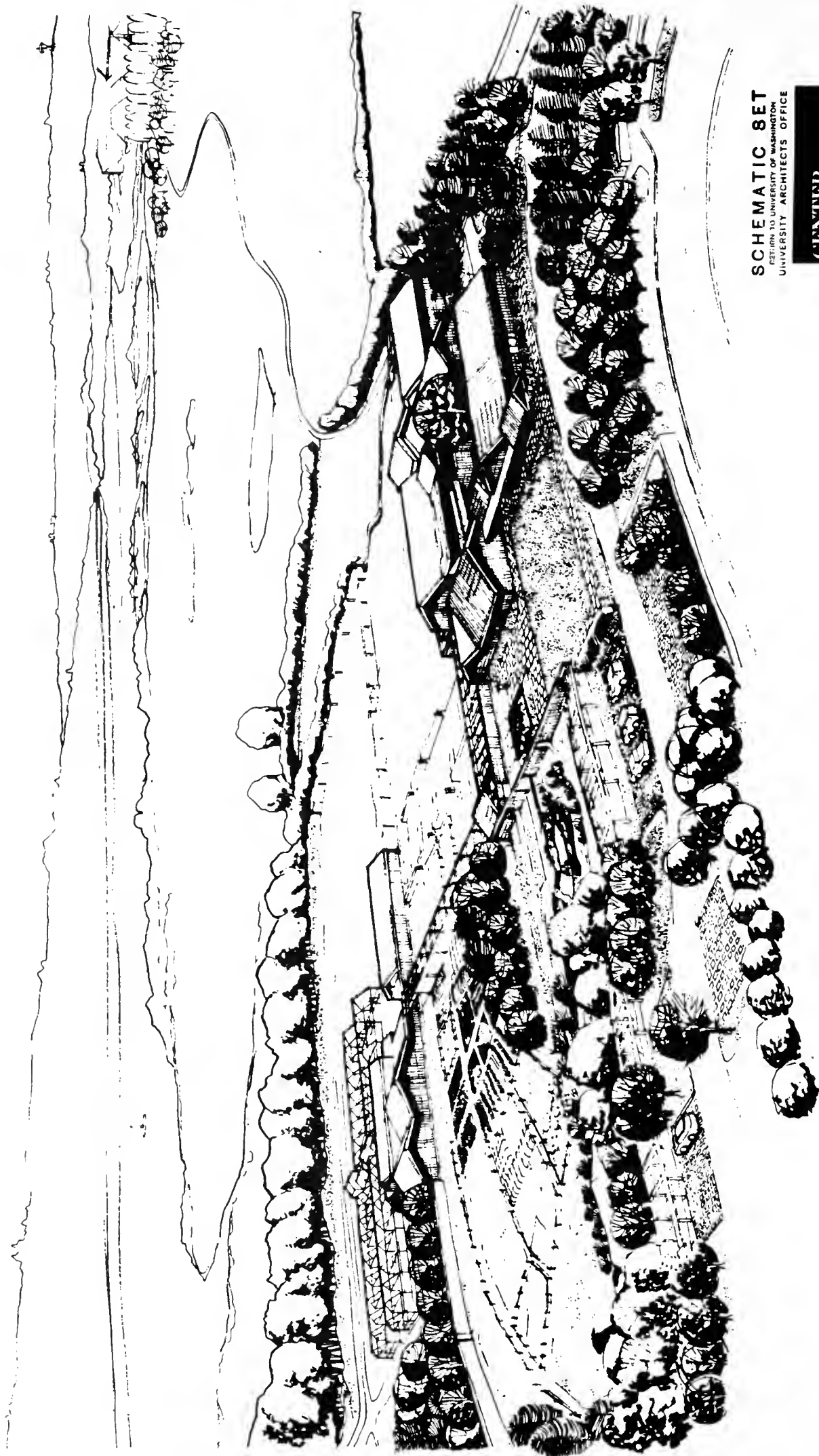
The new building is one of a complex of three, with greenhouses and growth chambers to follow. The \$1.2 million funds for the building have come entirely from private sources, a good example of the generous response by private donors in support of a public institution. It will house faculty and staff offices, conference and lecture rooms, and five specialized laboratories for scientific horticultural research. It will have space for the continuing education staff who are responsible for Urban Horticulture/Arboretum courses, Pro-Hort seminars for commercial industry, and other education programs of the Center. It will also have an herbarium, devoted to plants of the Northwest to complement the botanical collections in the Botany Herbarium.

Of particular importance will be the Elisabeth Carey Miller Horticultural Library, a splendid gift from Mr. Pendleton Miller and named in honor of his wife, a long time supporter of horticultural activities in the area and especially of the Center. Mr. Miller's gift provides construction funds for the Library. Even more important, it provides an endowment to support a permanent librarian position with additional funds for future development and growth of the Library. For the first time, all of the books in the horticultural collection, presently in several locations, will be brought together in one place, under the supervision of a trained professional. The collection will be properly catalogued and maintained in attractive surroundings for all horticulturists to use.

I hope that when professional and amateur horticulturists see and use the Library, private collections will be contributed to the Miller Library for the benefit and enjoyment of horticulturists of the region. In this regard, friends of Mrs. Edith Banghart have made a contribution for books for this Library in honor of her 100th birthday anniversary.

With an herbarium, offices, continuing education work areas and a library, the new building will serve as headquarters for research and educational activities in the Arboretum and at the Bloedel Reserve.

The Ground Breaking Ceremony was a chance for us all to congratulate one another and to be appreciative for what we have been able to do together. Already we are working on the next phases. Plans are ready for a Conference Hall adjacent to the new building, with flexible spaces for meetings of horticultural organizations, workshops, plant sales, and extension courses. Construction can begin as soon as funds are raised.



**SCHEMATIC SET**  
 RETURN TO UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
 UNIVERSITY ARCHITECTS OFFICE



The Horticultural Support Building is next with office, storage, and conference space for horticultural organizations. NOHS and the Seattle Garden Club will be among the first occupants. Finally comes the greenhouse-growth chamber complex which is essential for the research and teaching programs we are developing in Urban Horticulture.

We have made a tremendous start, with the special help of the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society. Now that the ball is rolling briskly, it is time to keep pushing as we work together to make Seattle the world leader in a quality program of research and public education in Urban Horticulture.



### HORTICULTURAL LEADERSHIP

The Pacific Northwest is showing its leadership in horticulture. For example, Mr. Jerry Rosso of Julius Rosso Wholesale Nursery of Seattle is the newly elected President of the American Association of Nurserymen, the nationwide organization based in Washington D.C. Dr. E. Proebsting of the Washington State University faculty at Prosser is President of the American Society for Horticultural Science. Dr. John Wott of our Urban Horticulture program, is President of the International Plant Propagators' Society. Dr. Harold B. Tukey is President of the International Society for Horticultural Science. Not bad for one region.



### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BOTANICAL GARDENS AND ARBORETA, INC.

#### PRESS RELEASE

#### PRELIMINARY DIRECTORY OF LIVING PLANT COLLECTIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

The Plant Collections Committee of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA) is pleased to announce the first edition of the Preliminary Directory of Living Plant Collections of North America.

This compendium of data on the living plant collections of 58 North American botanical gardens and arboreta includes listings of documented living collections, other plant resources, management, interpretation and research on collections, as well as information regarding staff, size and location of the garden.

Plant scientists and horticulturists will find this Directory a valuable reference tool. Members of plant societies, horticultural organizations and the general public with interest in particular plant collections should add the Preliminary Directory of Living Plant Collections of North America to their horticultural libraries.

Ordering information is available by contacting: AABGA, P.O. Box 206, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania 19081 (soft-cover, \$15.00 plus \$1.00 postage & handling).



## NOHS Fall Plant Sale Highlights

The NOHS Fall Plant Sale will be held Thursday, September 29 and Friday, September 30, from 9:30 A.M. to 9:00 P.M., both days, at the Bellevue Square Shopping Mall. Many new and unusual plants are being offered for the first time in every department; some are in very short supply. Come early so that you will not be disappointed.

### FROM ABIES TO ZELKOVA

Dorothy Hussey and Roberta Wightman, Co-Chairmen

#### Trees and Shrubs

In our effort and eagerness to provide Puget Sound gardeners with plant materials extending the blooming and color seasons, we have some designers' choices this year, selected with the total garden picture in mind. We have also our selections of small and/or flowering trees to replace diseased and dying flowering cherries, plums, and dogwoods. Let's not be "typhoid Marys" -- planting and spreading the current serious diseases of these trees.

You will find a few unusual hardy plants for container planting or for in or near your deck or patio. *Hedera helix* - smashing tree form, topiary-type, desirable for indoor specimens, shady deck or patio; *Nandina domestica* (heavenly bamboo), feathery bronze, evergreen shrub, for sun or part shade, requires moisture; *Pittosporum tobira* - shiny broadleaved evergreen shrub for full sun, clusters of small white flowers turning yellow, extremely fragrant.

We have some trees and shrubs selected primarily for their foliage color, for an accent or point of interest plant: *Berberis thunbergii* 'Rose Glow' - deciduous screen plant, thorny, color contrast, intense purple; *Photinia glabra* - most desirable, low and slow growing evergreen shrub, new leaves red, white flowers in clusters in May; *Abies arizonica glauca* - plant as a specimen, point of interest planting, color similar to Colorado blue spruce.

We are pleased to have a great choice of summer-blooming shrubs to extend the flowering season: *Ceanothus* 'Gloire de Versailles' with fluffy light blue summer flowers, evergreen leaves, should be planted with the very rare C. 'Marie Simon' with its fluffy pink flowers . . . beautiful combination . . . give them sun; *Fuchsia* 'Peter Pan' - small, perfectly hardy, giving fine color all summer, can tolerate full sun but prefers part shade.

And then on into autumn for color, you will find: *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* - Katsura tree, light, dainty leaf and branch pattern, turning a beautiful red or yellow in fall . . . very choice; *Parrottia persica* - a deciduous, widely spreading, rounded tree with a mottled gray and white bark, fall color brilliant orange to yellow to scarlet; *Acer griseum*, paper bark maple from China, one of the most beautiful of small trees, old bark peels and curls to reveal the cinnamon-colored underbark, leaves turn scarlet in autumn.





*Embothrium coccineum*  
Mike Lee

Need a screen planting? Here are alternatives to the over-used, replaceable laurel hedge: *Arbutus unedo compacta* - a lower growing than type, strawberry tree, evergreen leaves, white flowers and red fruit, grows best in full sun; *Escallonia 'Iveyi'* - large evergreen shrub, with large white flowers in summer, best in sun; *Myrica californica* - wonderful native broadleaved evergreen shrub, insignificant flowers, but interesting clusters of black peppers, giving rise to the common name "pepper bush."

Some of the out of the ordinary trees and shrubs that you will find: *Cassinia fulvida* (golden heather), a small erect New Zealand shrub with tiny crowded leaves which give the golden appearance, white flowers in July, full sun and good drainage; *Embothrium coccineum* - Chilean fire tree, having prolific red tubular flowers in late spring, grows to 30 feet but needs a protected area; *Laurus nobilis* - the classic Grecian laurel with aromatic leaves, the traditional bay leaf of cooking; *Euchryphia x intermedia* - a small evergreen tree with white camellia-like flowers in June and July, very choice; *Zelkova serrata* - an elm relative native to Japan, resistant to Dutch elm disease, thus a good substitute for the native elm. It is a deciduous tree with interesting branching habit, the small leaves turning yellow in fall.

This is just a sampling of the wonderful trees, shrubs, and vines that we will be offering in this department this year, ranging from new species never before offered to old favorites, just because we all love them.



## TEMPTING BONSAI RARITIES

Jocelyn Horder, Poulsbo, Washington

Exciting treats for bonsai lovers will be featured at the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society's Fall Plant Sale. The NOHS Bonsai group prides itself in offering culturists especially fine and unusual material for practicing their art.

There will be many forms of Satsuki and Kurume azaleas, including *Rhododendron satsuki* 'Chinzan', which has orange flowers. Also among the dwarf rhododendrons will be *R.* 'Gumpo' (white), *R. kiusianum* 'Humato' (clear pink), *R. k.* 'Sho-ho' (soft pink), *R. myrtilloides* and *R. pumulum* - a special form of a very lovely rare species.

In addition to the usual fine supply of finished bonsai and materials to develop into bonsai, there will be many rare plants not ordinarily found in the Pacific Northwest, some of which are listed as follows:

*Nandina domestica* capillaries 'Ikeda' - a tiny dwarf Japanese form which turns red in winter,

*Chaenomeles japonica* (flowering quince) - a miniature with bright orange flowers,

*Salix purpurea* 'Nana' - a dwarf Arctic willow with blue leaves,

*Ulmus parvifolia* 'Seiju' - a mutant of *U. p.* 'Hokkaido',

*Acer palmatum* - a fine selection in several 'Yatsubusa' forms, all especially desirable for bonsai culture.

Do not miss this excellent opportunity to increase your bonsai collection!



## BLOOMING COLOR IN HOUSEPLANTS

Shirley Gorman, Seattle, Washington

The houseplants section at the NOHS Plant Sale, September 29 and 30 at Bellevue Square will be an array of bright, colorful and diverse selection of plants to fill your kitchen, sunroom, or library, a palette of orange kalanchoes, yellow crossandra, pink cyclamen; new plants that we have not carried before, such as *Crassula falcata*, a scarlet paint brush with sickle-like leaves, a dwarf-size agapanthus and orchids that are vigorous growers. Come and see the profusion of color to decorate rooms in your home.





# NOTES FROM THE COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Sallie D. Allen, Seattle, Washington

For a number of years we have been able to offer a very limited number of *Microcachrys tetragona*, a rare endemic Tasmanian conifer of the Podocarpaceae family, closely related to the more familiar yew. Its creeping or mounding habit and tiny dark green tightly imbricated evergreen leaves serve to make this a unique shrub for a prominent position in the sunny rock garden. We were originally led to believe that it was not reliably hardy in this area, a reputation bestowed upon many fascinating Tasmanian shrubs and trees including *Pernettya tasmanica*, *Microstrobilus fitzgeraldii*, *Athrotaxis cupressoides*, *Gaultheria depressa*, *Podocarpus alpinus* and others that have survived many winters in this garden. *M. tetragona* has been growing here in the open ground for nearly fifteen years. One plant that was grown in a container and had become a traditional display plant in the Collector's Corner each year, was lost through lack of water during a long, warm, dry fall. The original cuttings were collected in the wild in Tasmania, at 4,000 feet elevation, and sent to me by Lord Talbot de Malahide in December, 1967.

According to the literature available to me at the time, the male and female cones are produced on different plants, the small dry male cones appearing on relatively young plants. However, recently I have learned that sometimes they can, in fact, appear on the same plant, but on separate branches, which was proved by an occurrence several years ago at the NOHS Fall plant sale. Much to our surprise, our display specimen covered itself with bright red, fleshy, somewhat bumpy fruit, much larger than the male cones which were also present, so beautifully decorating our dwarf conifer that everyone who visited the Collector's Corner was enchanted by our little charmer. Since we could not possibly supply the demand, we assured our customers that we would try to obtain plants for future sales. For those who were disappointed before, now is your chance!

\* \* \* \* \*

Another desirable member of the Podocarpaceae family, *Podocarpus nivalis*, attracted a great deal of attention here during the NOHS garden tours in June, by outdoing itself producing its bright red yew-like fruit. It is dioecious (having female flowers on one plant, male on another) so if you are growing only one, you are missing a main garden attraction for the month of June. The flowers on the pistillate form are so insignificant that you might miss them entirely; the staminate form more noticeable with about a two-inch spike of fluffy stamens.

*Podocarpus nivalis*, native to the sub-alpine zone of the mountains of New Zealand, is a dense foliated shrub suitable for the large rock garden or a prominent place elsewhere where it can be shown off to advantage. In British reference books it is described as growing in shade, however mine has been in a situation of full sun until early afternoon. It is a treasured shrub given to us by Margaret and Brian Mulligan when we first moved into this house 15 years ago. It is now about six feet across and as wide, pleasantly covering a very large, ugly rock, kept in bounds by judicious pruning over the past few years. The fruit, though obviously a yew-relative, differs by having the green pointed seed protruding from the end of the bright red fruit.

It has been interesting to note that *Podocarpus alpinus*, native to Tasmania and Australia, smaller in all of its parts and a darker green, has also produced fruit the past two years, pollinated by the staminate *P. nivalis*. If this seed is planted, however, it must be expected that hybrids will probably result.

We will be having both male and female forms at the fall plant sale, so if you do not know which you are growing, bring us a sample of the foliage so that we can help you to determine which you are growing and which you need to obtain.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are again offering a very dwarf form of the ever popular *Vaccinium vitis-idaea minus*, our original plant having been brought back from England in 1971. To distinguish it from the type form we have given it the name of 'Micro-Minus', although admittedly it is not a valid published name. It is decumbent in habit, the leaves much smaller and narrower than any we have seen previously. It thrives here in well-drained humusy soil in full sun; although it retains its habit and form in shade or part shade, it does not flower or fruit as freely. It is not nearly as invasive as one would wish being much slower growing. It is a delight!

\* \* \* \* \*

We will also offer *Linnaea borealis* 'Tiffany' described and named in the Winter 1982 Journal, Vol. 9., No. 4. Many of the propagations have flowered this spring, some on very short scapes, some appearing to be nestled right in the foliage. We are growing it in full sun and part shade near *L. b. longiflora* for comparison. The foliage remains dense, with new growth coming from the axils of the leaves. It is a jewel, admired lavishly by all visitors to the garden.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the NOHS Fall Plant Sale list you will note that the Collector's Corner section has a nondescriptive listing. Even this is not a complete inventory, as new treasures are being added too late for inclusion. Remember that many rarities are in very short supply, especially those that have never been offered before. Come early so that you will not be disappointed.



Renee Hill, Bellevue, Washington

The Pacific Northwest enjoys an almost ideal climate for rhododendrons. This was recognized years ago by the early hybridizers who chose this area and toiled to bring forth more perfect blooms. Many of their plants were sold at a young age, and have been growing happily in private gardens for twenty or more years. The original hybridizer often never saw the bloom of the plant he created.

Halfdan Lem was a prodigious hybridizer and many of his plants add grace, form and color to our gardens. He had the pleasure and satisfaction of naming and enjoying many of his beautiful rhododendrons, but many more have been known only to the one who owns the plant. Some of these are so beautiful they have been lately named: Rhododendron 'Isabel Pierce' and R. 'Gwen Bell' are two very fine examples. Other exceptional plants from these private gardens are being evaluated and considered worthy of general distribution. We are fortunate to have two to offer at our sale, not yet named and known only by number, that will be a beautiful addition to anyone's collection: #121, an unusual peach-apricot color of extreme beauty, and #16, an orange dwarf of good color and indumented leaves.

We will have many of Lem's rhododendrons at the sale -- in fact, a sale would not be complete without his choice introductions.



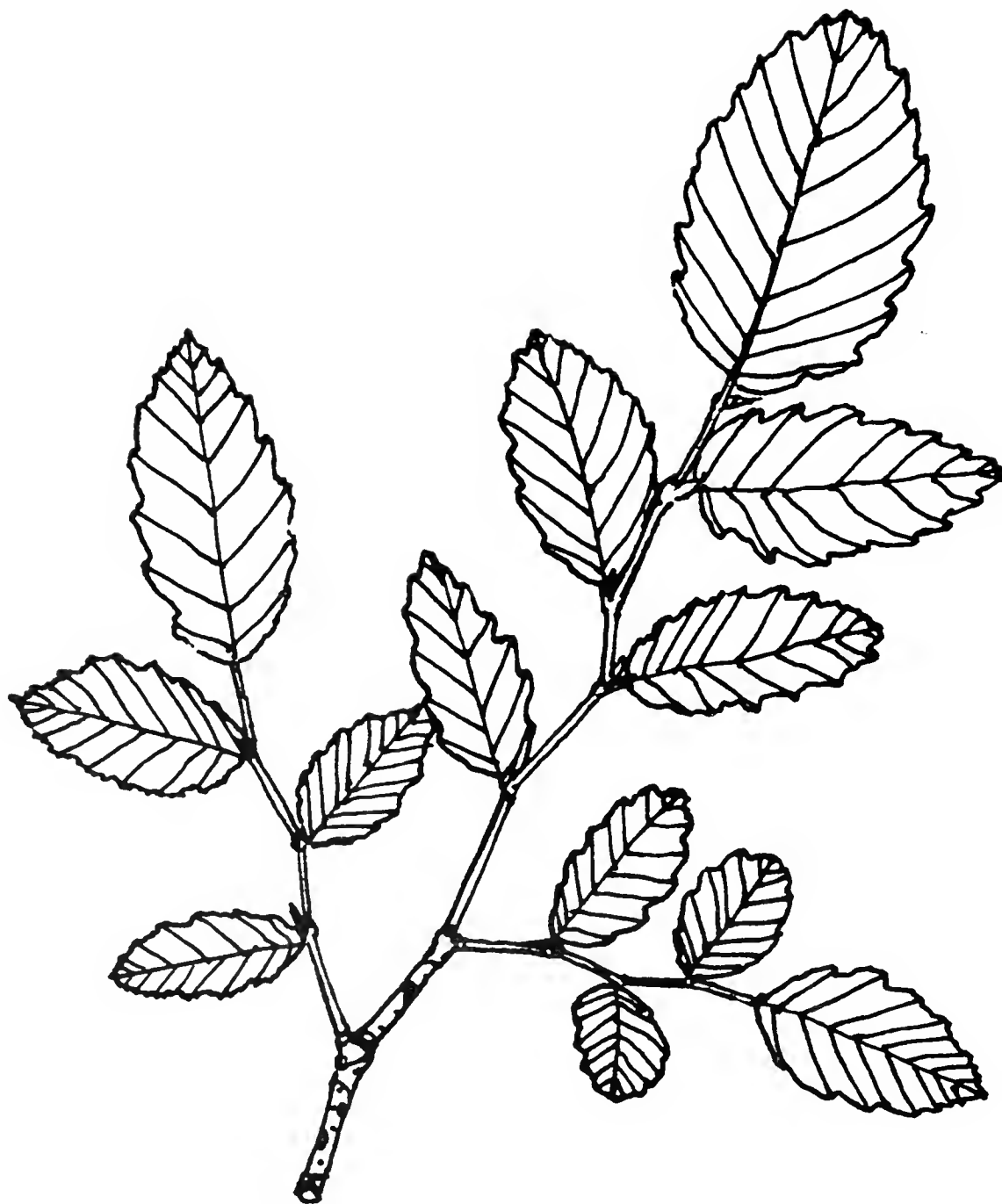
#### FALL IS THE BEST TIME FOR TRANSPLANTING

The following are some helpful hints that have proven successful here: If it is necessary to add peat moss to your soil, mix thoroughly. Even if peat is added wet to the planting hole, during prolonged drought it can dry out completely; if it does it may not be able to absorb moisture again. A thorough breaking up of peat combined well with your existing soil will prevent this from happening. Keep in mind that many of the plants, especially natives, that will be offered at the plant sale, are not heavy feeders, so that a little bone meal added to the soil mixture is sufficient. Water well. To minimize the shock of transplanting, water once a week with a Vitamin B-1 solution following the directions on the bottle, for about three weeks, even if it rains, until your plant establishes.

Very small or young plants you may want to winter over in the pot, sunk in the ground. Be sure to watch them though, as they can dry out.



Primula minima - Vernece Larochele



NOTHOFAGUS OBLIQUA - NATURAL SIZE

Mike Lee

*Nothofagus obliqua* is a New Zealand native, birch-like, deciduous tree, it's small leaves turning bright colors in the fall. Look for it in the Trees & Shrubs department of the NOHS Fall Plant Sale, September 29th and 30th, Bellevue Square Shopping Mall.



TIDBITS BY LADYBUG seems to be one of the favorite sections of *Horticulture Northwest* as many of our readers tell us that they turn to Tidbits first upon receipt of the Journal. This can only be continued with the help of you, our members. You do not have to be an accomplished writer in order to contribute your thoughts, your input and your experiences as fine gardeners in our area. Let our editorial staff take your information and put into appropriate form for inclusion in the Journal. Please share with us; let us hear from you.



N.O.H.S. NOTES

FALL 1983

Supplement to the Horticulture Northwest

Shirley Gorman, Editor

President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends of N.O.H.S.:

On August 18, I attended the ground-breaking ceremonies for the Center for Urban Horticulture on the University of Washington Campus at the Union Bay site. As the establishment of this Center has been a primary focus for NOHS, I was indeed pleased to represent you as your president. It was a very nice affair, beautiful weather, enthusiastic dignitaries, a happy and excited group of supporters, and a very pleased Urban Horticulture staff.

Expressions of gratitude were extended to the major contributors which included the R.D. Merrill Foundation, represented by several members of the family, both Mr. and Mrs. Prentice Bloedel, Mr. Pendleton Miller, whose contribution will construct and develop the Elisabeth C. Miller Horticultural Library in honor of Betty Miller, his wife and a mainstay of NOHS. Organizations were recognized also, including the NOHS, of course, which has been involved with the program right from the start. As he conducted the ceremonies, one could not help but be struck by the talents of Harold B. Tukey, the Director of the Center. With the skill of an architect, he has taken the dreams and ideas of others and combined them with his own vision and expertise to produce an overall plan which, coupled with his contagious enthusiasm, has gotten everyone into the act.

Now that the dignitaries have made their comments, the shovels wielded, the ground broken, and the champagne drunk, it seems that the only thing holding up construction is a building permit. But City Hall aside, a ground-breaking ceremony is just that -- a beginning. Now that it is over, we will have to redouble our efforts of support. As the building becomes a reality and the program matures, the number and variety of needs will increase giving us greater opportunities for individual and group participation. The easiest way to help the Center and its program is to take part in the activities of NOHS. Help Sue Olson and her crew with the Fern Sale; the last one was a huge success. Give Jean Wilcox a hand with the Plant Sale; there is one coming up at the end of September. Attend the Lecture Series organized by Marli Boyde and Nell Scott's garden tours. The profits of all these help us with our support for the Center.

Now, then, join me in a toast for a great future for the Center for Urban Horticulture!

John Putnam

## DEADLINES

Please send all NOHS organizational material, calendar of events, notices, etc., to: Newsletter Chairman, Shirley Gorman, 3305 - 43rd Northeast, Seattle, Washington, 98105.

Spring issue deadline: February 1st for March 15th publication; material to cover March 15th through June 15th.

Summer issue deadline: May 1st for June 15th publication; material to cover June 15th through September 15th.

Fall issue deadline: August 1st for September 15th publication; material to cover September 15th through December 15th.

Winter issue deadline: October 15th (early because of the holidays) for December 15th publication; material to cover December 15th through March 15th.

\* \* \* \* \*

The same deadlines apply to the Journal itself. Please send original articles, drawings, Tidbits, etc., to Sallie D. Allen, Editor, **Horticulture Northwest**, 18540 - 26th Avenue Northeast, Seattle, Washington, 98155. We welcome contributions, comments, suggestions and criticisms.

\* \* \* \* \*

Advertising: For information on our ad rates or placing an ad, please contact Shirley Gorman, Ad Manager, 3305 - 43rd Northeast, Seattle, Washington, 98105.



Membership Application  
NORTHWEST ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**Policy:**

To give financial support to the University of Washington Arboreta program and to other horticultural education endeavors.

**Membership activities encompass:**

Lecture Series, Study Groups, Annual Fern and Plant Sales, Tours of gardens of horticultural interest, Horticultural Journal.

(Please fill in form as you wish information to appear in yearbook.)

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City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

New Member (date) \_\_\_\_\_ Or Renewal (date) \_\_\_\_\_

(Membership renewals will come due January, May and September,  
Whichever month is closest to date of Membership Application.)

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Seattle, Washington 98195

TELEPHONE: 543-8800

**TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP: (Please check one)**

_____ Life	\$500.00
_____ Supporting	\$50.00 to \$100.00
_____ Contributing	\$25.00 to \$ 50.00
_____ Active (Individual)	\$ 15.00
_____ Group or Family	\$ 20.00
_____ Nursery (Member Listing)	\$ 20.00



# N.O.H.S. FALL JOURNAL 1983 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 19 - 26 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. \$35.00	Landscape Renovation Urban Horticulture Arboretum courses. Information: 545-8033.
September 22 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Arboretum, weeders, grounds and greenhouse volunteers - 543-8800.
September 24 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Iris plant sale, tall bearded iris and other iris, Southcenter, I-5 at Tukwila.
September 24 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Rhododendron Species Foundation volunteer plant sale at the garden in Federal Way, Rhododendrons, Azaleas, and companion plants will be available. Call 838-4646 at the office complex for information.
September 29 and September 30 9:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.	N.O.H.S. plant sale, Bellevue Square Mall. Wide selection of rare and special plants, trees to rock garden specialties.
October 1 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. \$35.00	Landscape Renovation (Continued)
October 2 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Public Arboretum tours every Sunday in October. Fall color throughout the Arboretum.
October 5 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Arboretum Foundation fall bulb sale. Dutch bulbs.
October 6, 13, 20 and 27 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Thursdays picnic tours. Bring a lunch and join the group. A guide will lead you through the colorful parts of the Arboretum.
October 6 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Arboretum Foundation wet bulb sale. Available at 7601 Champagne Point Road, Kirkland.
October 9 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Sunday public tours; Arboretum fall color display.
October 13 8:00 p.m.  Museum of History and Industry 2161 E. Hamlin, Seattle	NOHS Lecture Series. The 2nd Perry Johanson "Gardens for Pleasure," Everitt L. Miller, Director of Longwood Gardens, one of the best known great gardens in America. Lecture will include Callaway and the West- bury Gardens, Duke Gardens, Magnolia Gardens, Winterhur Dumbarton Oaks and the Longwood Gardens.
October 14, 15, and 16 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission: \$2.00 for adults, children under 12 are free	Rhododendron Species Foundation Fall Foliage Festival. Specimen plants will be featured. The Garden is located at Federal Way, WA, on the Weyerhaeuser campus. Guided tours will be conducted each day at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.
November 5 and 12 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Fall pruning classes at the Arboretum. Chico Narro, Instructor.
November 9 10:30 a.m. Museum of History and Industry 2161 E. Hamlin, Seattle	NOHS Lecture, "Asiatic Maples in Landscaping," by J. D. Vertrees. Mr. Vertrees has the largest collection of Maples in the United States and propagates them in his nursery in Roseburg, OR. His book, "Japanese Maples" is the authoritative work on these plants.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(Remove for Yearbook)

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## NOHS FALL PLANT SALE

September 29th and 30th, 9:30 A.M. - 9:00 P.M. both days.

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Come work with us, learn and enjoy!

What is your preference? Bonsai, Groundcovers, Ferns, House Plants, Rhododendrons,  
Collector's Corner or Trees and Shrubs

Volunteers: Call Jean Wilcox, Plant Sale Chairman - 322-8771

# Garden Renovation

Dr. John A. Wott and Van M. Bobbitt  
Center for Urban Horticulture

The Pacific Northwest is noted for its gardens in which plants grow almost daily. Because of the maritime climate, many gardeners find that once desirable small plants soon become overbearing. Also, how many of us have purchased an older home only to find that the garden is a jungle of overgrown plants?

Many people are perplexed as to what should be their "plan of attack". Should all plants be removed; can some be pruned back severely and saved; or just where does one begin? These are all questions that the gardener must answer.

In this article we will begin to suggest some ways in which garden renovation can occur. Successive articles in future issues will contain more details.

## Plan Before Acting

An "attention getting" landscape does not happen by chance. It is the result of careful planning. So before you pick up the pruning tools, shovels, etc., you must have a definite plan in mind.

This means we first study the total landscape situation, and begin by determining the general use areas, i.e., public, private, and service areas. Within these general areas, we must plan for our specific needs -- a small vegetable garden (needs sun); a play area for the kids (Is it safe? Can it be easily supervised?); outdoor eating area (Is it close to the kitchen?); aesthetics (attractive when viewed from inside as well as outside the home).

Also, how much energy do we want to expend in gardening? Some of us work in the garden every day. Others can only find time on weekends. High maintenance plants and garden styles should probably be avoided by the latter.

Take an inventory of the desirable features now in your garden. Which structures should be saved and/or emphasized? Which plants are special and why? Can these plants be saved, rejuvenated by proper pruning, or moved to a more desirable location? Overgrown shrubs can often be turned into small trees by selectively removing lower branches to expose the trunks. Large, vigorous rhododendrons are especially fine candidates for this treatment.

Then begin constructing lists of the plants, structures, and garden features which you would like incorporated into your new garden. Be as specific as possible. Also, list the cultural requirements for the plants; you may find that they are not suitable.

Along with this, decide the style you want your garden to take. Most gardens, whether new or in early stages of rejuvenation, will take a few years to reach a stage of maturity where you can really enjoy them. The style will also help determine the specific plants and structures you will use.

Obviously a very important consideration is the amount of money you can afford and/or want to spend on the garden. You can cut initial costs by planting smaller plants, but the best effect will take longer to achieve.

Those interested in the details of garden renovation may want to enroll in the Urban Horticulture-Arboretum course, "Landscape Renovation", which begins on September 19. For details, call the Center for Urban Horticulture at 545-8033.



*Campanula allionii*  
(Campanulaceae)  
W. European Alps



Vernece Larochele

Rock Garden  
1 - 2" - light purple blue  
Sun, good drainage

Look for *Campanula allionii* in the Collector's Corner of the NOHS Fall Plant Sale.



# The Tallest and Smallest

53

Brian Halliwell, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, England

From the genus *Eucalyptus*, which contains over 600 species and probably as many naturally occurring hybrids, both the tallest and the smallest species are to be found in Tasmania which are respectively *E. regnan* and *E. vernicosa*.

Some of the common names for *Eucalyptus* are: swamp gum, giant gum, stringy bark and mountain ash. It occurs in Victoria, Australia, as well as Tasmania and is to be found growing in a deep well drained soil (in contrast to what is suggested by the first of the common names) in areas of high rainfall up to an altitude in Tasmania of 2,500 feet, but to 3,500 feet in Victoria. Mature trees can exceed 300 feet, making this not only the tallest species of *Eucalyptus* but of any hardwood tree. In the Styx Valley of Tasmania, a tree held the record of the world's tallest for a few years until it was reclaimed by one of North America's giant redwoods. It has a life of about 200 years.

The trunk which is long and shaft-like can soar for 200 feet before it branches; it is buttressed at the base which has a fringe of shaggy bark. On the rest of the trunk, the bark is deciduous peeling off in narrow longitudinal strips (hence its second common name) to expose a smooth surface which is white streaked with grey. Adult leaves which are a glossy-green, are about four inches in length, sickle-shaped and alternate whereas the juvenile, which are few in number are opposite, grey-green, outward pointing and broadly lance-shaped.

This tree is far too large for introduction into any but the very largest garden and one must be satisfied with admiring it as part of a forest. It is thought at its most effective if it can be seen in isolation in a field or at the edge of woodland.

At the other extreme is *Eucalyptus vernicosa* which has the common name of varnished gum, a reference to the polished surface of the leaves. This species which is endemic to Tasmania occurs on mountains between 2,500 and 4,500 feet in alpine scrub and on exposed peaks, plateaux and mountain moorlands. Although it can make a small tree of up to 10 feet in sheltered places at the lower part of its range, it is more likely to be found as a much branched shrub half of this height. In exposed places at its altitudinal limit it may not exceed 12 inches. There do seem to be some forms which retain this small size when introduced to cultivation at lower levels although it is more usual for much larger plants to be produced when transferred to a richer soil in a protected situation.

Unlike most other species of *Eucalyptus*, there is no marked difference between the juvenile and adult leaves although the former are always opposite, much thinner and less shiny than the latter which can sometimes be alternate. In length, these do not exceed an inch and are outward pointing, broadly elliptical with a slightly wavy margin.

It has not proved to be the easiest of species when brought into cultivation. Germination of seed is invariably poor. In samples of seed of any species of *Eucalyptus*, there is a mixture of fertile dark brown and infertile, light brown seed. For a capsule to develop, it is necessary only, for one ovule to be fertilized. In *E. vernicosa* the percentage of infertile seed is very high for at the high altitudes where this species occurs, weather conditions at flowering time are often detrimental to pollination. It seems that good seed is shorter lived and more demanding in its germination requirements. Following sowing of fresh seed, exposure to cold, whilst not essential, does stimulate germination. As with all *Eucalyptus* species, transfer seedlings singly to separate containers as soon as big enough to handle and plant into their permanent position whilst seedlings are small and before they become rootbound. Unlike so many species it does not seem to tolerate drought and needs a lime-free soil with peat which remains moist.

It can be planted on a rock garden where the restricted root run will reduce its ultimate size. If it does become too large, it can be cut back in spring before the new flush of growth begins.



## NOHS Seed Exchange 1983 - 84

The NOHS Annual Seed Exchange is growing with each year; new and exciting contributions are being added to challenge the expertise of our members. Now is the time to collect seed of desirable native plants during your fall trips into the field and to look around your garden to catch those rare treasures that you wish to share, native and otherwise. This is your opportunity to contribute substantially to the enrichment of the gardening experience of our members. Seed collected in the wild is always popular; please indicate where collected, elevation and any helpful information. Mark all packets clearly with botanical name, and do not forget to label package, HAND STAMP PLEASE. Mail to Seed Exchange Director, Sylvia Duryee, 1115 - 41st East, Seattle, Washington 98112.

\* \* \* \* \*

Much to our surprise and delight, generous packets of seed have been received by shareholders in the Sikkim Expedition (see Spring issue of *Horticulture Northwest*, Vol. 10, No. 1, page 5, "NOHS Supports Sikkim Expedition".) Kath Dryden, President of the Alpine Garden Society of Great Britain, included in the packets, temporary field notes, seed sowing notes and a letter containing interesting information on the expedition, part of which we quote as follows:

"The advance party: Barry Starling, Michael Upward, Brian Mathew and Chris Brickell, arrived back on Saturday, 9th July, a week earlier than anticipated as the Indian Government foreshortened their permits on arrival in the country. However, they completed their journey, visiting almost all the sites they had planned to botanize and investigate for seed potential. In the event it was fortuitous that they arrived early, because Brian Mathew needed treatment at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases and is still not at all well.



The weather during the whole trip was as anticipated, appalling, but they all worked, and walked, manfully to accomplish their tasks.

Enclosed herewith, a few BONUS seeds.....our thrifty collectors felt that some of you might like to try your luck with seed that had been under snow and monsoon on the live plant."

We did not expect this BONUS, but of course, are delighted. We commend Kath Dryden and her diligent committee discharged with the arduous responsibility of sorting, cleaning and packaging the fruits of this exciting expedition, and sending it in record time along with invaluable information. Thank you, team members, Mrs. Dryden and her committee. Job well done! We send our warmest good wishes to Brian Mathew for a speedy recovery.

\* \* \* \* \*

SOMETHING NEW!!! We have already received two generous packets of seed from Tasmania: 1. *Doryanthes excelsia*, (spear lily) sword-like foliage, six to eight feet in height, red flowers on long stems which tower above the foliage, 2. *Eucalyptus pulchellus*, a Tasmanian endemic, described as a very graceful fine-leaved small tree, found in sub-alpine as well as lowland areas. It should be reasonably hardy for us in the Pacific Northwest.

\* \* \* \* \*

Many thanks to the following for their POT contributions and generous thoughts: Pacific Landscaping, Peter Harvard and Mrs. Janet Dabney, (who, by the way, is moving to California, sad to say!)\* Thanks to you, our storage bins are full to overflowing, so please, for the present, we do not need more pots. If it is convenient for you to hold them, I am sure we will need more in the future. Thank you.

\* Editor's note: She will continue to assist us with the Journal, however.



*Alchemilla alpina*

Vernece Larochele

Look for this in Groundcover Department  
at the NOHS Plant Sale

*Book Review* TREES AND SHRUBS FOR WESTERN GARDENS, Gordon Courtwright.  
(Timber Press, Forest Grove, Oregon, 1979). Pp. 239;  
673 illustrations in color. Price \$42.50.

The author is a longtime nurseryman in California, an originator of nursery centers and designer for eight years of the Spring Garden Show in Oakland, California. The book, therefore, has a strong bias towards plants grown in California, and to "the hundreds of fine plants commonly available in the trade", as the author states in his Introduction. It is intended to be "a practical visual dictionary of all the plants readily obtainable in California and Northwest retail nurseries", but since "it is based entirely on the catalogues of seven of the largest wholesale nurseries in California and Oregon" it obviously does not cover any of the many smaller nurseries producing excellent plants in both Oregon and Washington.

Arrangement of the several groups of plants is by size and habit of growth, beginning with Low Growing Shrubs under four feet tall, followed by Medium, (4 - 8 feet), and Tall (9 feet or more). Then Trees, Vines, and finally Conifers. All plants are listed alphabetically by genera and then species. Each plant in these groups is illustrated in color by a standard size print measuring 2-3/8 by 3-1/2 inches (6 by 9 cm); each is given both Latin and common name followed by a brief nonbotanical description, generally referring to the habit of growth and particular qualities of flowers or foliage, sometimes also to special cultural requirements. The U.S.D.A. Plant Hardiness Zone is supplied for each, as well as a "Planting Group" number, defined on p. 15; this refers especially to environmental needs such as sun or shade, drainage and soil conditions.

The author's categories are quite elastic. Amongst the 100 LOW GROWING SHRUBS listed are twelve herbaceous plants, including species of *Agapanthus*, *Clivia*, *Festuca* and *Strelitzia*. On the first page are three distinct forms of *Acer palmatum* 'Dissectum' which most growers would hardly consider as low growing shrubs. No mention is made of the need to plant both sexes of *Pernettya mucronata* and *Viburnum davidii*, if fruits are to be obtained. So far as hardiness is concerned, 31 of those 110 plants are allocated to Zones 9 or 10, which would preclude them from being grown outdoors safely in the Puget Sound region. The *Cotoneaster* illustrated on p. 45 as *C. glaucophylla* is in reality *C. buxifolius*, as stated in An

Annotated Checklist of Woody Ornamental Plants of California, Oregon and Washington, by Elizabeth McClintock and Andrew T. Leiser, published by the Division of Agricultural Sciences of the University of California (#4091), in February, 1979.

Amongst MEDIUM GROWING SHRUBS, of which 150 are described and 43 fall into Zone 9, we find three *Cytisus* listed which should have been included in the first group, namely *C. x kewensis*, *C. x praecox*, and *Genista* (but captioned *Cytisus*) *lydia*. A little later, under letter "F", are four pages devoted to FERNs, although only two of these ever produce woody stems, *Alsophila* and *Dicksonia*. Under "G" is included *Gunnera chilensis*, "reminiscent of a giant Rhubarb" as the author says, but hardly a medium-sized shrub. For camellias and rhododendrons there are lists of recommended kinds, with, in the case of the former genus, illustrations of single flowers, and for the latter, of whole or part of plants in bloom.

The quality of these evidently varies with the photographer, although the majority are good representations of the variety shown.

The *Sarcococca* depicted and described as *S. ruscifolia* (p. 110) is *S. confusa* since its fruits are black and not red. Some other names which need to be updated according to the McClintock and Leiser Checklist are *Erica melanthera*, *Osmanthus ilicifolius*, *Ternstroemia japonica*, *Genista racemosa*. Obsolete names should not be perpetuated when an authoritative source is so easily available.

In the TALL GROWING SHRUBS the illustrations of *Magnolia x soulangiana* 'Lennei' and 'Lennei Alba' are certainly not the true forms of this hybrid (p. 129); that of 'Rustica Rubra' is much more like the former. It can, therefore, be seen from these observations that this is not a work to be relied upon for accuracy in plant identification or nomenclature. So far as the illustrations in general are concerned, they do show the plants under garden or city street conditions, but their small size often gives only an impression of what mature specimens look like, and rarely a close-up of the flowers.

Following the section on TREES (151 kinds described) there are VINES (45, of which 26 are suggested for Zones 9 or 10 only), and CONIFERS (104, of which 28 are junipers, many of them prostrate or low growing forms). There are two useful Indices, one on pp. 17-31 of Botanical followed by Common Names, and another at the end of the book, from Common to Botanical. The latter is followed by several lists of plant genera having flowers of various colors, or fragrant flowers, of those suited to dry or wet places, and finally more detailed lists usually supplying both generic and specific names of plants resistant to deer browsing and to *Armillaria* root-rot.

At the quoted price this is not a work which can be recommended to readers in western Washington or Oregon north of Eugene. Too many of the plants in its pages require a warmer and milder climate than we possess.

Brian O. Mulligan



**Education:** As always happens in the educational process, the more you learn, the more you realize how little you know, and the knowledge you acquire is diminished somewhat by the overwhelming realization of how much there is still to learn. You believe you have far more expertise in your chosen field of study early on in the process than further down the line when eventually you not only begin to question your own observations and conclusions but also the scientific information and/or lack of it. The inquisitive amateur has the added frustration of realizing his limitations due to lack of botanical background and formal training, however, the layman can contribute strongly to the scientific field of knowledge because he not only seeks out and selects, but grows the plants with tender loving care, compares and observes their habits over a long period of time. He also can propagate and distribute rare plants through those who share his common interest, as there is no greater joy than sharing the bountiful fruits of a labor of love.



# Tidbits

by Ladybug



At the request of many, the winter issue of Horticulture Northwest will be devoted primarily to PROPAGATION, seed, cuttings, special new methods that can be utilized by the home gardener. It is not our intent to reprint tried and true methods found in standard references, but to offer new unpublished information that can only come from the experience of the many fine gardeners within our membership, who have learned through trial and error, failure and SUCCESSES! You undoubtedly have discovered how to handle a difficult plant; please share anything from an individual plant note to a full article. Deadline for the winter issue is October 15th. Let us hear from you.



Not all sand is good sand for soil mixtures to pot up plants or to mix with peat for your cutting medium, which many of us have had to learn the hard way. Coarse, washed sand is what we want, something not always easy to find. Fine unwashed sand contains so much dirt that when mixed with peat and leafy soil (or whatever you combine for a potting mix) the dirt particles pack hard, so that fine roots cannot penetrate and the water is inhibited from permeating the root system and the soil below. If a plant seems to be ailing, carefully remove from the pot and see if indeed the soil is dry at the root level and below. If so, gently remove soil taking care not to damage the roots and repot in a more friable mixture, and water frequently with a liquid hormone preparation such as Liquinox START (one tablespoon to a gallon of water).



Although fall is the time for transplanting, many of us transplant when it is convenient and/or when necessary rather than waiting until fall, which is the ideal time. It must be realized, however, that far greater care must be taken when transplanting during less than ideal times, such as late spring and summer. Plants must be watered thoroughly, and it is necessary to continue much more frequently than would be normal, through the hazardous season. Also, it must be remembered that during the transplanting process we take the opportunity to pull weeds and invasive groundcovers from the root ball, which have served to conserve the moisture. We do not recommend transplanting in summer, but if you have to, WATER!



Editor's request: Does anyone have an unused copy of Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs by A. Rehder, to contribute to the Reference Library of your editor? If so, please call Sallie Allen, 363-3189.



**Unsurpassable weeding tools** for alpine or other small plant areas are a long-bladed (four-inch) oyster knife and a pair of curved-ended philatelist's forceps.

Marge Baird, Bellevue, Washington

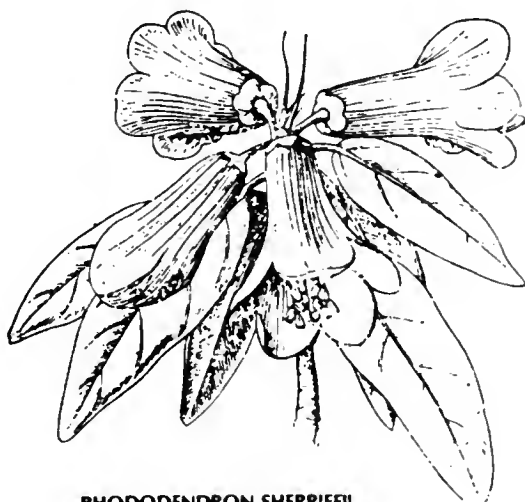


**Discouraged by marauding neighborhood dogs** who walk off with your cat's dishes, containers of all kinds, or the box of bonemeal you might have forgotten to bring in? (Did you know that dogs go wild over bonemeal?) This is not to mention the continued damage they render to precious plants and shrubs. Although there is not a leash law as such in King County, there is a control ordinance which requires that all dogs out of their own yards must be under voice or leash control of their owner. The property owner does have his rights; a complaint can be filed with Animal Control, who will come out and patrol the troubled area. A complaint to the neighbor in question, if the dog owner is known, is preferable as a first resource in attempting to solve this frustrating problem. An Animal Control number not in the phone book is 344-3935. Outside of King County, check on the laws protecting you.

We have tried one cat and dog repellent, available locally, which is expensive, smells terrible; not only did it not work, but the intruder carried off another cat dish. (It did kill one slug, though!)



**Old wives' tale?** You be the judge. Two enthusiastic gardeners were commiserating over the damage rendered to shrubs and plants by invading neighborhood dogs. One related her solution to the problem, though admittedly did not know why it worked. She had filled a white gallon jug half full of water and placed it in a prominent place in the garden. Result: no dog ever again entered her yard. The second lady, highly dubious, but desperate enough to try anything, followed this advice. It worked! Sounds far out? Perhaps it is worth the try.



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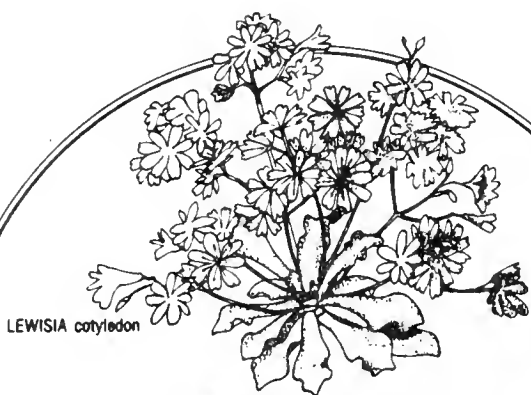
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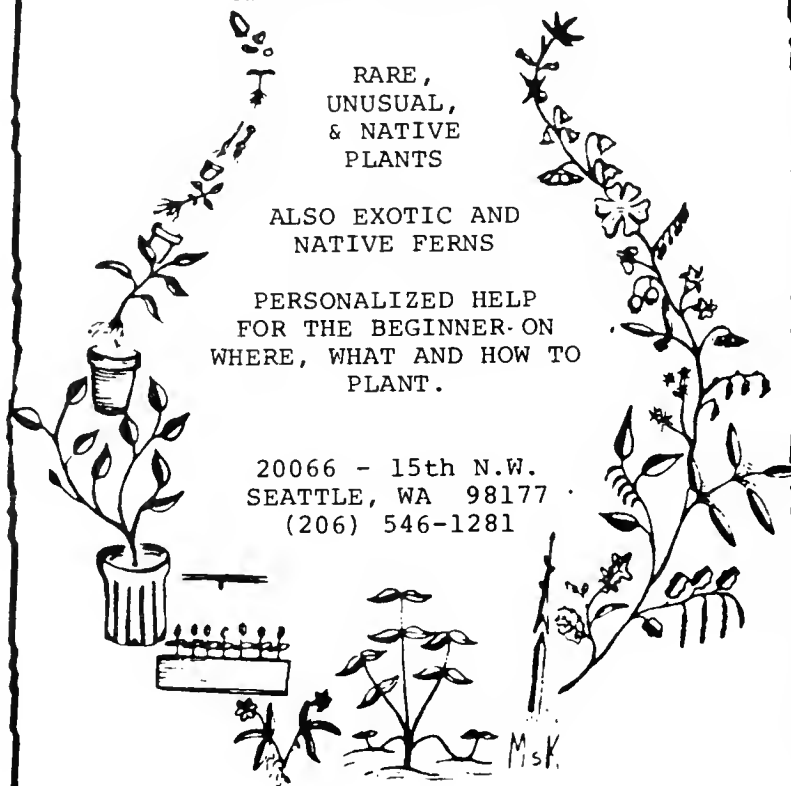
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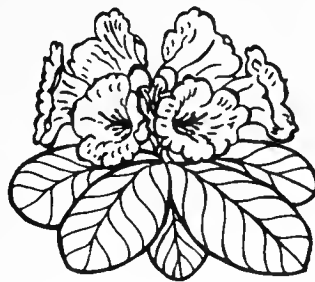
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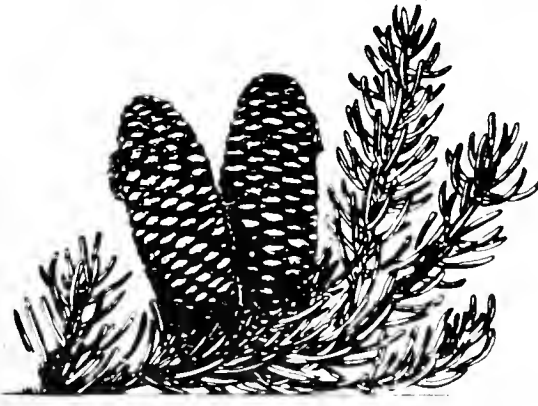
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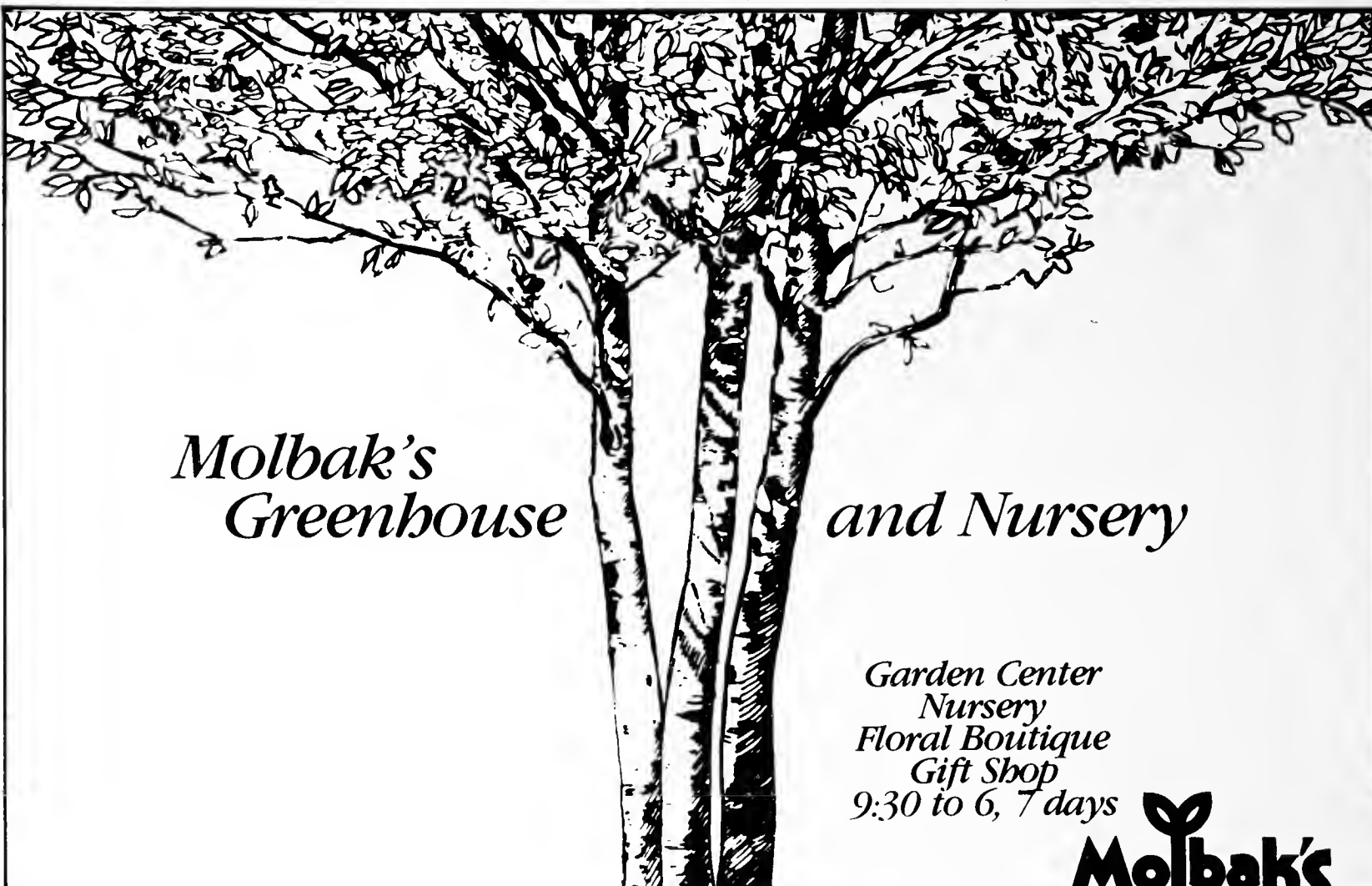
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Number 3

Fall 1983



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